

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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S E C R E T ATHENS 4716

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR, CY

SUBJ: CYPRUS - AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

GHIZIKIS

1. I OPENED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS OF GREECE THIS MORNING BY EXPRESSING TO HIM THE DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG FOR THE STATESMANLIKE RESTRAINT THEY WERE SHOWING IN CYPRIOT CRISIS. IN ADDITION, I SAID THEIR REACTION TO DATE WAS HELPING MATERIALLY IN IMPROVING NOTABLY ISOLATION INTO WHICH THEY HAD FALLEN AFTER COUP JULY 15. THE US AND GOG NOW ON SAME WAVE LENGTH WORKING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER TO BRING ABOUT IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND PEACE ON ISLAND.

2. PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS THEN TOLD ME THAT THE TURKS WERE LANDING ADDITIONAL TROOPS IN THE KYRENIA AREA. HE SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO WASTE TIME REVIEWING THE PAST AND HE APPRECIATED ALL EFFORTS I HAVE MADE AS WELL AS USG TO HELP TO BRING ABOUT POSITIVE RESULTS. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONCRETE RESULTS TO DATE AND ALTHOUGH THE GOG HAS

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CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED A POSTURE OF SEEKING TO AVOID

INCREASING TENSIONS THEY HAVE IN FACT REVIEWED THEIR POSITION AND ARE NOT TAKING DECISIONS. HE REPEATED THAT SINCE 0445 HOURS THE INDISCRIMINATE BOMBING OF ALL CITIES ON THE ISLAND HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE AND FRESH TURKISH TROOPS ARE LANDING IN THE KYRENIA AREA. THE BOMBING TARGETS ARE NOT MILITARY BUT CIVILIAN AS WELL. HE THEN SAID "WHAT IS THE VALUE OF NATO "IF NONE OF OUR NATO PARTNERS ARE HELPING US AT THIS TIME"? GREECE HAS MADE A DECISION TO LEAVE NATO WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT 1000 HOURS THIS MORNING. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL GO ON RADIO AND TELEVISION AT 12 NOON TO EXPLAIN TO THE GREEK PEOPLE WHY GREECE HAS TAKEN THIS STEP. HE CONTINUED THEY WERE TAKING THIS STEP IN ORDER TO "FREE THEMSELVES" FROM THEIR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO NATO. ONCE THIS FREEDOM IS OBTAINED, HE CONTINUED, GREECE WILL BE FREE TO TAKE ANY DECISIONS IT DEEMS NECESSARY IN ITS NATIONAL INTEREST. THEIR HANDS WILL NO LONGER BE TIED BECAUSE THEY ARE ALLIED WITH TURKEY.

3. I SAID I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE. I REPEATED THAT THEIR POSTURE TO DATE HAD HELPED VERY MUCH IN IMPROVING THEIR IMAGE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT THEY WERE ISOLATED AS SHOWN BY EFFORTS OF US AND OTHER NATO ALLIES IN THE UN AS WELL AS NATO FORUM. IN ADDITION, THE NINE EEC COUNTRIES HAD ALSO TAKEN STRONG STAND TO HELP RESTORE PEACE TO THE ISLAND. ABOVE ALL THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT THEY REALLY DO HAVE A GREAT FRIEND IN THE UNITED STATES, AND ESPECIALLY IN PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. WE WERE NOW MARCHING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE. HE WAS AWARE OF GREAT EFFORTS BEING MADE BY UNDERSECRETARY SISCO IN ANKARA WHO WAS NOW MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER. I ADDED I COULD TELL HIM UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT US TAKING FIRMEST POSITION WITH THE GOT ON THE QUESTION OF A CEASE FIRE AND IT IS NOW CLEAR TO GOT THAT IT WOULD BE JEOPARDIZING MOST SERIOUSLY THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IF THEY DID NOT REPEAT NOT COOPERATE IN THE ATTAINMENT OF AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE.

4. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, PRESIDENT SAID ALL THIS UNDERSTOOD BY GOG AT HIGHEST LEVELS, BUT ACTION HAD TO
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BE TAKEN IN HIGHER GREEK INTEREST. MOREOVER, AS A NATO ALLY, AND THE CLOSEST FRIEND OF GREECE, I THOUGHT HE SHOULD AT LEAST GIVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE US AND OUR SECRETARY OF STATE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING INFORMED IN ADVANCE AND EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ON THIS GRAVE STEP WHICH GOG ABOUT TO TAKE.

5. PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS SEEMED SOMEWHAT MOVED BY

THIS STATEMENT. HE THEN SAID MOST HE COULD DO AT THIS TIME
WAS TO POSTPONE THE HOUR OF ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL 1100 HOURS,
BUT THAT HE HOPED THAT USG COULD GIVE HIM THEIR COMMENTS
EARLIER. I ASSUME HE MEANS BY THIS SOMETHING CONCRETE
IN THE FORM OF A TURKISH DECISION TO COMPLY WITH THE
DECISIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE MOST
EARNEST PLEAS OF USG AT HIGHEST LEVELS.
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